

NEPA PROCESS

- Environmental Assessment (EA) concludes with A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a determination to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- A Notice of Availability for the Draft EA
- Opportunity for Public Meeting on Release of Draft EA
- Public comment will be taken into account in finalizing the EA
- Final NEPA document & all related technical documents will be made available to public.

Scope of EA

- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives (minimally no action and preferred)
- Existing Conditions
- Environmental Impact Analysis
(positive & negative consequences)
 - Impact avoidance
 - Minimization of unavoidable impacts
- Monitoring Plan and Reporting Strategy
- Agencies & interest parties consulted, public comment

Restoration Goals and Objectives

- **Benthic Habitat Improvement**
 - Restore benthic substrate quality
 - Increase benthic species diversity
 - Achieve depth of -20 ft
- **Water Quality Improvement**
 - Increased D.O., lower ammonia levels
 - Entrance Channel Dredging
 - Vertical Mixing
- **Fisheries Habitat Enhancement**
- **Ecosystem Linkages**
- **Recreational Opportunities**

Issues

- Entrance Channel Dredging
- Placement of Entrance Channel Material in Pits
- Type of HARS-suitable material to be placed in pits
- Recontouring depths
- Sediment consolidation
- Sediment resuspension
- Site Access

Project Monitoring

- Purpose to determine extent & impact of potential placement plume during construction, and to determine level of habitat restoration success post-construction.
- Real-time on-site sampling for TSS, selected contaminants, DO, etc. Benthos.
- Multi-year monitoring.
- Public input to plan encouraged.
- Results to be made public.

Upcoming Study Activities

- Bathymetric survey of project area.
- Cultural Resource Investigation.
- Determine geotechnical properties of pit sediments (core sampling).
- Sediment grain size & contaminant testing of entrance channel materials (core sampling).
- Fine tuning of HD/WQ predictive model.
- Ecological benefit evaluation methodology selection and assessment.
- Develop Monitoring Program (Pre/During/Post).
- Complete Draft Feasibility Report & Environmental Assessment.

Contact Information

Written comments can be submitted by mail to:

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Project Information can be located at District website:

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/harbor/index.htm>